

NEWS Utah Labor Commission

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Utah Labor Commission opens grant application process to fund promotion of workplace safety

SALT LAKE CITY, April 3, 2008 – The Utah Labor Commission is requesting applications to award funding for projects or initiatives demonstrating a commitment to workplace safety through effective programs. These may include, but are not limited to, development of workshops, training programs, implementation of specialized safety programs, increasing effort and resources for existing programs, and collaborative workplace safety training between organizations.

The 1996 Legislature enacted legislation creating a restricted account in the General Fund known as the Workplace Safety Account. The money is generated from a 0.25% assessment of workers' compensation premiums paid annually in Utah. The Commission is charged with the task of using these funds to promote workplace safety, which includes awarding a portion of account funds to selected grant applicants. This upcoming fiscal year will include over \$300,000 in total awards to selected grant recipients and will be distributed among as many qualifying applicants and in monetary amounts the Labor Commission deems appropriate. Entities eligible to apply for a grant include Utah businesses, community-based organizations, Utah non-profits and local associations.

“The Workplace Safety Committee of the Labor Commission has identified areas of key priorities upon which to focus: industries and occupations who have higher incidences of workplace accidents and fatalities; and assisting employers in breaking down barriers to safer work environments due to language and cultural barriers”, said Utah Labor Commissioner, Sherrie Hayashi. “This is a great opportunity for an employer or other entity to augment its safety program budget and provide additional means to reduce workplace accidents for its employees.”

The Grant Application and all related details outlining the criteria successful applicants must satisfy, as well as the process the Commission shall use to award the funds, is available online at www.laborcommission.utah.gov or by contacting Elena Bensor, Workplace Safety Program Manager at (801) 530-6918 or elenabensor@utah.gov.

Grant Applications are due by Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. The grant contract will involve up to a 12 month period ending June 30, 2009.

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